

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
OF CHRIST



## Mid-Week Ponderings for May 20, 2020

*A flower blossoms for its own joy. ~ Oscar Wilde*

Happy Hump Day, Church!

This quote was submitted by Diane Kvasnicka. This is the last quote from Leadership Team members. I will choose a quote to write about next week and then beginning the first week of June, I will no longer be writing Mid-Week Ponderings. You can continue to look for Monday Musings and Friday Reflections in your email or mailbox. However, due to the Memorial Day holiday, there will not be a Monday Musings next week.

This quote struck me for two reasons; first, indeed there is value for the flower and other living creatures (I'm thinking bees) when a flower blooms; and second, we are not flowers. Let's look at the first statement.

A flower does not bloom for us to admire its beauty or even for bees to have nectar. It blooms because there are scientific reasons for that flower to bloom at that time and, when it blooms, other things happen to the plant. That is about the extent of what I remember from high school biology, but I do know that it is important for the rest of the plant for that flower to bloom — even if there is some supplemental benefit to other living creatures.

Now — we are not flowers. We do not do things only for our own benefit. We are part of a wider community, and scripture tells us to love one another. That means sometimes we do things (or don't do things) for the good of others in our community.

You all know that I keep driving home the point of wearing masks. We are not wearing masks to protect ourselves, we are wearing masks to protect others. Yes, they are hot and we are not used to wearing them, but as an act of love, we don our masks when we are going to be around other people.

Likewise, we may wait longer than some of you would like before we start having worship in person. We **will** worship in person at some point this year, but it is going to be on a schedule that is best for the majority of our community. I miss seeing you and I know you miss seeing each other, but until I start to see a decrease in new cases, we will continue to worship virtually. That is what Jesus taught us to do; not to look out for our own wants first, but to love one another. First, we are followers of Christ.

In the first week after putting flags on the front lawn, we placed an additional 396 flags. Yesterday, we had to place 186 more flags to represent the COVID-19 deaths from the previous five-day period. While not one of those flags represents a member of our congregation, each flag represents a family that was impacted.

We are not flowers, we are Christians, and we are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves. So enjoy the beauty of the flowers and flowering trees and bushes around you — just don't strive to be like them.

What will you do this week to be more like a Christian than a flower?

Blessings,  
Pastor Brooke